

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/524,471

Applicant(s)

OKABE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Marc A. Scharich

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 12/11/2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3 and 5-9.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Joseph W. Price on 4/23/2007. *The application has been amended as follows:*

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 is amended to:

-- 1. A vehicle frame structure for a motorcycle, which comprises[[;]]; a head block including a head tube; a main frame welded to the head block and forked leftwards and rightwards from the head block including a pair of left and right inner frame halves positioned inside the vehicle frame structure and a pair of left and right outer frame halves positioned outside the vehicle frame structure; and

swing arm brackets extending downwardly from rear ends of the main frame half portions;

wherein the inner and outer frame halves of the main frame are respectively configured to have generally U-shaped sections, with their openings welded to each other to form the main frame,

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wherein the inner frame halves of the main frame and the swing arm brackets, in their entirety or respective inner portions of the swing arm brackets, are made of a unitary cast metal,

wherein at least the outer frame halves of the main frame is are made of a sheet metal, and wherein a guide passage for introduction of air to an air cleaner of an engine is formed inside the main frame. --

Claim 3 is *amended to*:

-- 3. The vehicle frame structure for the motorcycle as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the air cleaner is positioned within a space delimited between the pair of the left and right inner frame halves of the main frame. --

Claim 5 is *amended to*:

-- 5. The vehicle frame structure for the motorcycle as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a flashing plate for deflecting the a flow of the air, to separate water contained in the air, is disposed within the guide passage. --

Claim 8 is *amended to*:

-- 8. The vehicle frame structure for the motorcycle as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the pair of left and right inner frame halves are integrally cast with a cross member for connecting the pair of the left and right inner frame halves with each other. --

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc A. Scharich whose telephone number is (571) 272-3244. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (571) 272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M.A.S. - 4/23/2007

Lesley D. Morris

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Marc A. Scharich

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